

EXTENDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD...ONE PERSON AT A TIME

Celebrating
60 YEARS

ONE-TO-ONE

© SUMMER 2015

EMBRACING THE
TRUTH
WITH OUR
LIVES
SPECIAL ISSUE





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By Stephen Simpson



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Editorial and Publishing:
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Administrative / Operations:
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From the Editor The Church Victorious

Responding to the worldwide
persecution of Christians

BY STEPHEN SIMPSON

They were marched forcefully to the water's edge by masked terrorists. As these prisoners knelt in their distinctive orange jumpsuits, awaiting the savage sword of execution, the last word from their lips was, "Jesus". This is a scene being repeated with startling frequency across the Middle East and northern Africa in 2015...100 years after the genocide of the Armenians by the Ottomans, and 70 years after another genocide swept through northern Europe, animated by the demonic spirit of Nazism.

The cry in the subsequent years was, "Never again!" Yet, sadly, genocide has happened and is happening now. There is a particular animus against people of Judeo-Christian faith, which should come as no surprise to those of us who know and understand our history. Yet, these efforts at stifling our voices or stamping us out have not succeeded; in fact, they have only made our hearts more convicted and our voices stronger.

We see this also from the writer of Hebrews, who takes note of some of the heroes of the faith, who:

"...were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins,

being destitute, afflicted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us" (Hebrews 11:35-40).

The Old Testament heroes did not receive the full reward of their faith until they stepped into eternity. The New Testament heroes received Jesus, but their efforts remained incomplete apart from the generations to follow, including ours. They were willing to embrace suffering so that others might receive the blessing of knowing Jesus and receiving His salvation.

As noted earlier, our world today is graced by many courageous believers who share that same heart and mission. God Himself only knows all the names of those who have given their lives so that others might hear the Gospel; who refused to deny Jesus, even at the threat of torture or death.

However, this is a reality that very few in the Western Church have had to face. Yet. There are increasing signs that the official climate is becoming more poisoned against authentic Christ-followers here in America and in Europe. Should challenges to our faith come,

are we willing and able to stand for what we believe and in Whom we believe?

Author **Nik Ripken** has written the must-read books, ***The Insanity of God*** and ***The Insanity of Obedience***. He and his wife, **Ruth**, have traveled to more than 70 nations where persecution is the norm, and interviewed hundreds of Christians in those nations. Some questions they have asked include why and how have these believers endured in such a harsh environment? Why and how is Christianity actually spreading and strengthening in many of these places? What Nik and Ruth discovered almost universally among these believers is an understanding that persecution for faith is part of the normal Christian life. Though believers did not seek to be persecuted or martyred, they do see persecution for faith as an honor and privilege should it come to them.

As the Ripkens note, perhaps the question should not be, "Why are Christians being persecuted in those nations," but rather, "Why are we not being persecuted here?" Of course, we are not seeking out persecution, nor do we want to be killed or see our children killed. But, are we willing to prepare and to live our lives for Jesus in such a way that if it were ever outlawed, it would not stop us from serving the Lord? We

[Editorial continues on Pg. 15](#)

Keynote

EMBRACING THE TRUTH WITH OUR LIVES

*As we celebrate 60 years of ministry,
we look ahead to the future!*

BY CHARLES SIMPSON



Rev. Vernon Simpson with his children,
Riley, Charles, Carolyn, and his wife, Genoa

MY LIFE HAS BEEN GREATLY influenced by my parents, who were missionaries among the French-speaking people in the south Louisiana bayous during the 1930s. What I learned about the Lord, faith, and perseverance, came from them. My earliest memories are of south Louisiana swamps, hard working people during the Great Depression who took survival seriously but not themselves.

In 1942, we moved to south Alabama where my parents remained and my father pastored for the next 35 years. It was a rural, farming area where I learned to work hard and gained many practical lessons. Dad and mom believed that work was good and I got my first job at the age of 9.



For this special issue of *One-to-One*, we're doing a few things differently. I was asked by our staff to write a brief summary of my 60 years in ministry and comment on our mission. Summarizing 60 years is difficult, but I do want to get to the theme of this article because it will be our focus in the years ahead.



I met the Lord when I was 14, after hearing an evangelist preach on hell like he had just returned from there. I soon began to share my faith and see others come to Christ. But two things happened that eroded my commitment; one was a gradual growing involvement in the culture, and the other was a fear that the life I had given to Christ might actually be required.

A two-year battle with myself and with the Lord convinced me, in some frightening ways, that I was dealing with a Sovereign God Who cared little for what I wanted. I was not only called, I was threatened! I decided to respond to the call of Christ when I was 18. Though I did respond and was licensed



to preach, I was reluctant. I took up boxing in college, but before I had my first official fight, I was asked to speak at a mission the very night of my first fight. I could not believe that it was a coincidence, so I began to preach. My first message was to a small group in what had been a bar.

Soon I was being invited to speak at youth meetings, churches, and then became an interim pastor at age twenty. I continued to commute to college a hundred miles away and in my junior year, I became the senior pastor of that church.

In 1959, I graduated from college and then got married to Carolyn Dix in 1960. She was a great gift to me for the next 47-and-a-half years, before she went home to be with the Lord in 2008.



We both began to commute to seminary from 1960-1963. Meanwhile, the church grew almost ten-fold. After six years of commuting, pastoring, and studying, the pace finally took a toll on me, and in 1963, I dropped out of seminary.

My plan was to simply focus on the church with hard work and to teach the Scriptures. But it wasn't long before I began to realize my personal limitations. When I preached from the book of Acts, I could clearly see that what the disciples produced and what I was producing was not the same kind of fruit.

I became interested in the

work of the Holy Spirit, and in February of 1964, my friend Ken Sumrall testified to being baptized in the Holy Spirit. I began attending his prayer



meeting in Pensacola, Florida. I was hungry to the point that if the Lord did not meet me, I would have to quit the pastorate. In April of 1964, He graciously baptized me in the Holy Spirit, resulting in new found peace and joy.

A NEW CHAPTER

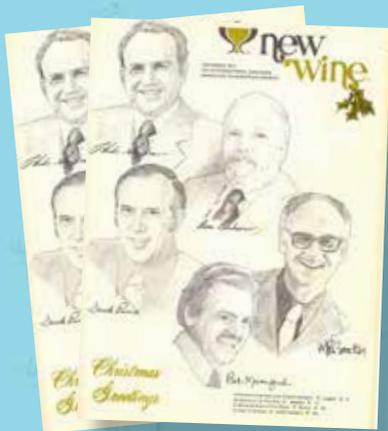
The first Sunday after my experience, I returned to the pulpit; I was different and the results were different. People responded before I concluded the message. Soon people were realizing the dramatic changes; some loved it and others were frightened by it. We lost half the church. But



beyond the losses, the Lord added to the church from numerous denominations and non-Christians as the power of the Holy Spirit became evident. We became the first denominational Charismatic

church in our area and we doubled our original size

Then I began to receive invitations to travel both in the United States and abroad. There was a worldwide movement taking place and I was blessed to be a small part. My denomination wasn't happy about this movement, and so I spent a lot of time before committees. Because of the growing demands, I invited John Duke to be my associate pastor. John was also a Baptist pastor and had recently been baptized in the Holy Spirit and "released" from his congregation.



I met a lot of other ministers who were involved in the renewal, among them Derek Prince, Bob Mumford, and Don Basham. I came to highly regard them and we were invited to help create a magazine called *New Wine*. In addition to that ministry, we began a TV station and other outreaches. In 1971, I moved to Fort Lauderdale to join the other teachers. In 1974, we were joined by Ern



Ern Baxter, Derek Prince, Charles Simpson, Don Basham, and Bob Mumford

Baxter, who I regard as one of the most eloquent ministers of our time.

The five of us focused on building biblical foundations within the exploding Charismatic Movement. We taught on Spiritual Authority, Worship, Deliverance, Prayer, the Kingdom of God, Discipleship, and other subjects often overlooked by a more emotionally-driven movement. The local controversy that I had known was dwarfed by an international storm. When one embraces truth, consequences can never be calculated. Walking in *faith* does not preclude mistakes, and we made our share, but none of us were prepared for the blowback.

I moved back to the Gulf Coast in 1973 to work with Glen Roachelle, who had begun a fellowship in Pascagoula, MS. John Duke, Terry Parker, and others joined us in establishing what eventually became Covenant Church of Mobile. I

continued to work with the other teachers and leaders in a variety of denominational groups.

The *New Wine* teachers continued to work together until Derek withdrew in 1983, and the rest of us dissolved our relationship in 1986 due to the continued controversy. We did not want to continue the polarization nor deal with the tensions that were arising within and among our spheres of influence. We had grown too fast to handle all of the results.

CONTINUING THE MISSION

One of the byproducts of our efforts was the beginning of Integrity Media of Mobile in 1986. The worship music that it recorded and distributed reached millions of people. Michael Coleman was Integrity's founder, and I was privileged to serve on the board.

The book that best describes the journey of the *New Wine* teachers is Dr. S. David Moore's book, *The Shepherding Movement*.

The Great Commission did not begin or end with any of us. It has been there since Jesus spoke it and will be until He returns. Our task in our time remains and we are still commanded to make disciples of all that He taught. The means to accomplish our mission has changed dramatically with technology and travel, but the mission is the same.

When we embrace the truth as we understand it, there is always more truth to come because we are embracing the One Who is the Truth; as we follow Him, He reveals more and more of Himself to us.

The apostle Paul wrote in First Corinthians 16:9 that there were open doors and many adversaries. Open doors and adversaries go



With Michael Coleman

hand-in-hand. Adversaries range from mere opposition to brutal savagery. Yet many in the Western World and in the Church remain naïve and uninvolved in the spiritual war that is raging. Let me list some of the adversaries:

- First of all, the battle is spiritual; we battle evil

forces (see Ephesians 6:12).

- Our greatest battle is within ourselves; we battle ourselves (see Romans 7).

- Secularism is a militant opponent that has gained power in the Western World.

- Militant Islam is another opponent. So many in the West remain ignorant and naïve as to the aims of savage, fundamental Islamists.

The question is, can we fully embrace God's truth with the understanding that we must lay down our lives? Can we move from a culture of indifference to a place of apostolic commitment?

Jesus was clear in His invitation to disciples, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." (Luke 9:23) So to be true disciples we must heed what Jesus said without knowing all that it may require. Romans chapter 8 gives us further counsel; our call is to be led by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will help us in prayer and obedience, knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God. We are not given a map; we are given a Guide, and the Word of God.

We can expect tribulation. Jesus was clear about that as well (see John 16:33). His peace passes our understanding of the way things appear. Our trust is not in our understanding, it is in Him. It is through Him that we overcome and we will (see Romans 8:31).

People love formulas: "Do this and get that." I have not

found formulas to work for me. When I was ordained, I was given a Bible, and my father pointed to the Timothy letters for sound advice for leading a church. Specifically I was told that no matter the environment, "PREACH THE WORD IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON" (Second Timothy 4:2). I lay no claim to achievement or to an error-free life, but my aim remains the same: to be a good steward of that sacred trust handed to me by those who gave their lives to pass it on. This one thing I have learned, and I pray to pass on. God honors His Word.



With Bishop Joseph Garlington

Whatever honor I have received for simply surviving 60 years in ministry is due to my Dad's advice. It has humbled me in my best days and carried me in my worst days. I love and honor God and His Word. Heaven and earth will pass away, but His Word shall stand (see Matthew 24:35)! Jesus, the Living Word, is the Truth, and our call is to embrace Him with our lives. That is all that we can actually give, but that will be enough. 121

CHARLES SIMPSON is Editor-in-Chief of *One-to-One* Magazine. He ministers extensively throughout the United States and among the nations.





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Ph: 830.625.7222
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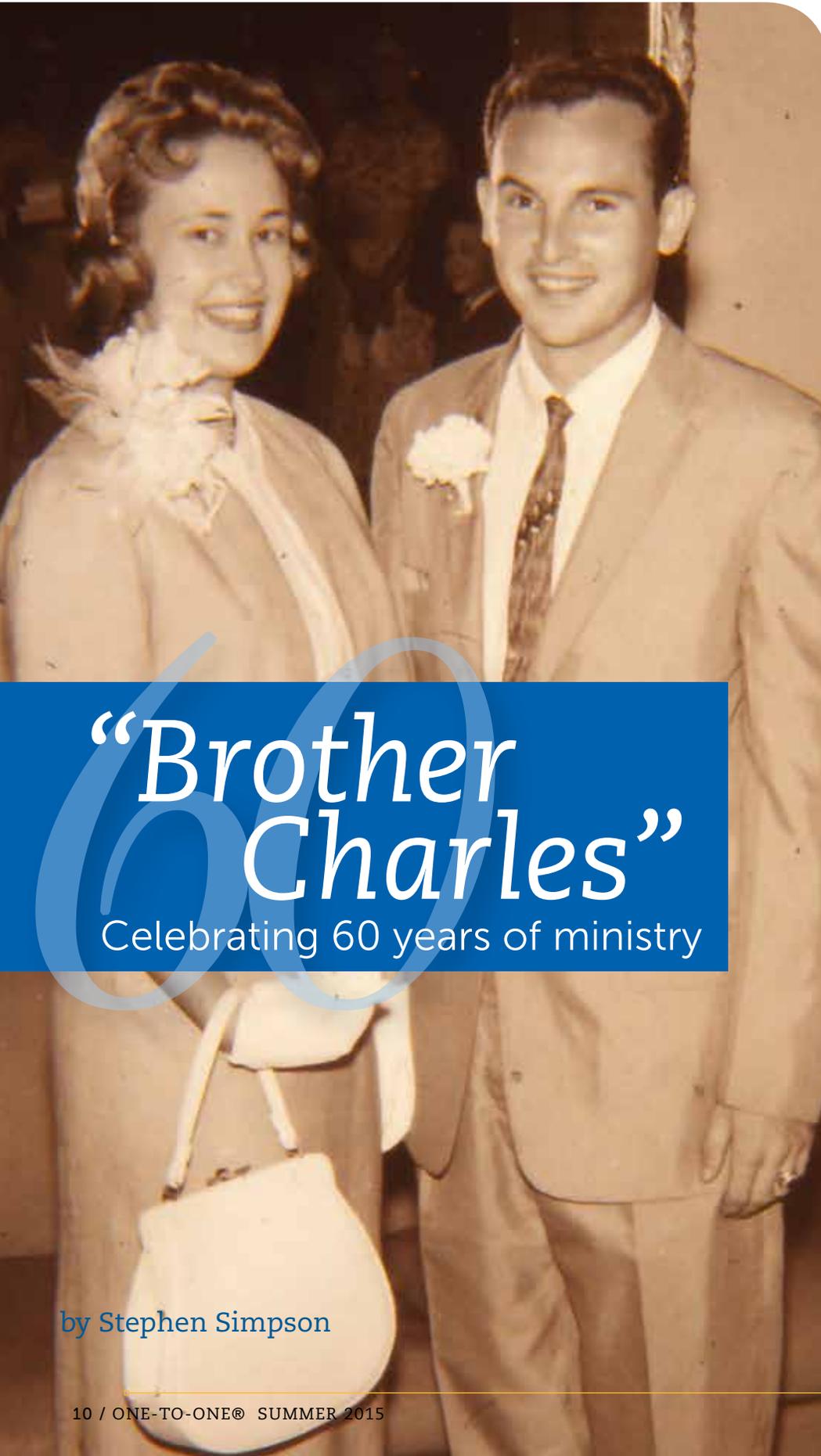
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Celebrating 60 years of ministry

by Stephen Simpson

In 1955, Dwight Eisenhower was still in his first term as President of the United States. Winston Churchill was nearing the end of his final tenure as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The Brooklyn Dodgers were the World Series Champions and “The Mickey Mouse Club” reigned on television. Elvis Presley had not yet emerged on the national music scene.



And, an 18-year-old Charles Simpson was seeking God about what to do with his life.

Having recently re-dedicated his heart to Jesus Christ, he faced an unusual dilemma: to be a boxer in college or accept the opportunity to minister in a small mission group.

A series of events convicted his heart and mind that he was being called to serve the Lord wherever

the Lord would lead him. He was soon ordained into Gospel ministry, not realizing that 60 years later, he would still be answering God's call.

By 1957, he was invited to become pastor at Bay View Heights, a small, struggling Southern Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama. Charles Simpson was 20 years old. He told the deacons, "If they had been a better church, they would have had a better pastor, and if I had been a better pastor, I would have had a better church. And, if they wouldn't tell, I wouldn't tell." Still, with fervent prayer, leadership from the Lord, and wise counsel from his father and other mentors, he began to see positive change happening in the church and surrounding neighborhoods.

LOVE AND MARRIAGE

The next year brought one of the most significant and happy changes in his life and ministry; he began to court Carolyn Dix (who was, unbeknownst to both of them at first, the daughter of one of his father's closest college buddies). God Sovereignly brought the relationship about when Charles was conducting a series of revival meetings and needed a piano player. A friend recommended Carolyn, who was a multi-instrumentalist; not only were the revival meetings a blessing, but a true love relationship was born.

Charles and Carolyn were married in 1960, and all seemed well ... a new marriage, a growing church, and years of attending seminary together. I was born in 1963, and we had a happy home.

Though the church was growing and more opportunities for ministry were coming, "Brother Charles", as he came to be known, was becoming increasingly hungry spiritually, and

feeling a sense of burn-out from intense activity and from deep concerns over where society was heading.



with Ken Sumrall

When his close friend, Rev. Ken Sumrall, experienced a baptism in the Holy Spirit, my Dad wanted to know more. He traveled to Brother Ken's church in Pensacola, FL, which was just a small storefront place in a rough part of town. Dad knew that his friend had become controversial. Brother Ken had been kicked out of his large and thriving Baptist church following his infilling with the Spirit, and was considered by some to be a "holy roller". However, Dad's own hunger for the Lord—and his trust in Brother Ken's sincere and well-grounded love of the Bible—caused him to make the long drive to see what was happening.

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

There, in that decidedly non-glamorous and seemingly unpromising location, my Dad had his own powerful encounter with God, being baptized in the Holy Spirit during a prayer meeting. Though he did not "advertise" his experience, it immediately affected his preaching and ministry. Soon, many people in his church were repenting and coming to Christ and experiencing renewal in their lives.

A genuine revival broke out at Bay View, as people from all races and

walks of life, and even many nations, traveled to be a part of something amazing that God was doing there. The church grew rapidly, and was part of many missions around the world.

Bay View became a leadership and revival training center, and the sparks from that spiritual fire went everywhere.

Groups and denominations that my Dad had once criticized were among the first to open their arms to him and invite him to come and share what God had done in his life. My dad said he had to humble himself before God and these brothers and sisters, to repent of some of his previous attitudes. Genuine love and reconciliation followed. Soon, revival was breaking out among those churches and denominations as others, filled with the Holy Spirit, began gathering together, encouraging one another, preaching the Gospel, and seeing amazing signs following.

Without realizing or intending it, my Dad was becoming a pioneer in one of the great revivals in history. What had once been considered a backwoods or fringe movement was blossoming into what became known as the Charismatic Renewal worldwide. Hundreds of millions



of people in every part of the world have now shared these experiences in the past fifty years.

NEW WINE

In the late 1960s, he began ministering in conferences and



seminars for a group called the Holy Spirit Teaching Mission, based in southern Florida. That group launched a Bible teaching magazine in 1969, called *New Wine*.

My dad was invited to be part of the very first group of monthly writers and contributors to the magazine, along with a very diverse group of other Bible teachers, including Don Basham, Bob Mumford, and Derek Prince. The magazine quickly exploded in numbers of readers and in influence.

However, one of the leaders of the publishing ministry was discovered to be living a double life of sin and deception. Don Basham, Bob Mumford, Derek Prince, and my dad were asked to come into the situation to speak the truth in love and to seek repentance and restoration. Though that man refused their counsel, and was subsequently dismissed, each of these brothers recognized together the great need in the Charismatic Renewal for genuine community, accountability, and walking in the light. They had witnessed too many other situations of leaders and believers falling into terrible traps.

As brothers, friends, and colleagues, they prayed and sought God together and made a simple commitment to one another to walk in covenant love and truth. Little did any of them know what would emerge from this prayerful agreement.

Over the next few months, in speaking ministry, and in their writing, word began to spread of their committed relationship to one another, and the need they saw for

this kind of loving accountability before God. The response globally was stunning. Tens of thousands of people sought these men out, seeking similar relationships and spiritual community. Hundreds of churches were born and there arose an increased need for teaching, discipleship, and pastoral care. Many young believers coming out of the "Jesus Movement" of the 1960s and early 1970s were looking for structure and basic life teaching, and gravitated to the ministries they saw emerging via *New Wine*. The rate of growth was dizzying.

During this season of life, both my sister and brother were born, delighting my parents, and providing me with two lifelong best friends. Our family continued to grow together. When Dad had to travel, Mom was a rock at home. When Dad was home, he always made sure to make times with us a priority, including regular prayer and Bible study together, as well as lots of games and fun.



THY KINGDOM COME

After a brief season of living in southern Florida, our family moved back to the central Gulf Coast in 1973. Dad had been meeting with regional leaders and friends to pray



Bob Mumford, Charles Simpson, Ern Baxter, and Don Basham

and seek God together. During one such time, Dad began to say the Lord's Prayer and when he came to "Thy Kingdom come," he could not go any further. The anointing of the Holy Spirit fell in a very tangible way. These brothers began to weep, worship, and shout together as the Lord's purpose became clear: the Kingdom was not only for Heaven later, but the Father's desire was for His Kingdom to be revealed on earth now.

Along with these other area leaders, Dad founded Gulf Coast Fellowship (later to become Covenant Church of Mobile) in August of that year, and became the Senior Pastor.

In 1975, 5,000 pastors spiritually related to the *New Wine* brothers, who now included Ern Baxter, gathered in Kansas City. *The World Christian Encyclopedia* estimated that more than 100,000 Christians were now connected.

This growth and growing influence caused controversy and consternation among some Charismatic and Evangelical authorities, pundits, and clergy, on a national scale, and even locally along the Gulf Coast. Certain practices and extremes not taught by *New Wine*, but nonetheless attributed to the teachers, caused confusion and grief among some Christians who were part of churches who claimed allegiance

to the movement, as well as other onlookers.

One popular flamboyant televangelist went on air, without personally talking with or verifying his rumors with the *New Wine* teachers, to excoriate them and to “ban” all of their publications and recordings from his network. He was followed by others who parroted that method and narrative, which spread like feathers in the wind. Attempts at reconciliation proved difficult. Some notable ministries blacklisted the *New Wine* teachers and worked hard at disseminating negative stories. The *New Wine* brothers continued to reach out to these ministries, which eventually began to open new doors for fellowship and cooperative ministry.

Plans proceeded for a larger Charismatic gathering in Kansas City in 1977 at Arrowhead Stadium. Approximately 50,000 Christians came from across North America and the globe to worship Jesus together. During the days, breakout sessions were held; the “Shepherding Movement” meetings in Kemper Arena drew 9,000 people and featured Charles Simpson and other *New Wine* teachers and guests.

Charles Simpson also moderated one of the evening gatherings at Arrowhead, which featured his great friend, Pastor Larry Christenson



Charles Simpson with Rev. Larry Cristenson in 1977, at Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City

from the Lutheran Renewal, and then-President Jimmy Carter’s sister, Evangelist Ruth Carter Stapleton.

OPPORTUNITIES AND OPPOSITION

Just after the Kansas City conference, Charles Simpson and the Shepherding leaders took a spiritual pilgrimage together to Belgium, where they were joined by Catholic Cardinal Leon Joseph Seunens, and then traveled on as a team to Rome and then to Jerusalem. Key ecumenical leaders from across the Charismatic Renewal were part of this pilgrimage as well.



Speaking with Cardinal Seunens and Don Basham

My dad and his dad, Rev. Vernon Simpson, launched the *FATHERGRAM* publication, which was aimed at encouraging and equipping dads according to practical, biblical principles. This newsletter gained wide readership, both as a stand-alone publication, and as a department in *New Wine*.

Back in Mobile, Gulf Coast Fellowship experienced continued growth and renewal, while we also battled spiritual opposition and controversy. Our family home was repeatedly attacked, including three crosses being burned in our front yard. While that was personally painful for my dad, it only strengthened his resolve to seek God through prayer and Scripture, to deepen his relationships with our family and with his ministry allies, and to further dedicate himself to

ministry and mission.

In 1978, *New Wine* moved its offices to Mobile, and coordinated with Gulf Coast Fellowship. The focus of Charles Simpson’s ministry continued to be on the mission of the Gospel and disciple-making, as well as strengthening families, encouraging men to step up in the Lord, the importance of leading a lifestyle of prayer and worship, and leadership development. By the early 1980s, the church had purchased land in west Mobile, and had been re-named Covenant Church of Mobile. *New Wine* and its parent company, Integrity Communications, moved to that location as well.

The President of Integrity Communications, Michael Coleman, had a strong background in administration, and also in music. As he and the *New Wine* staff read letters from readers, and subsequently confirmed via surveys, there was a great hunger for anointed worship music. Out of this came the development of Integrity’s Hosanna Music (which eventually became Integrity Media, the world’s largest privately held praise and worship music company).

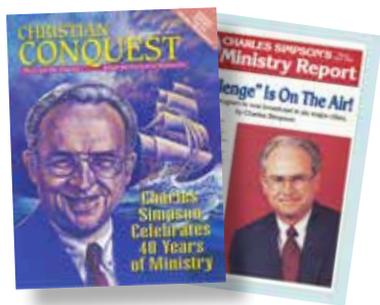
By this time, there was a plethora of Charismatic teaching publications available, and many new publishing ministries had arisen. The *New Wine* brothers were now living in different locations across the United States, with varying emphases, and some felt that their formal association should be dissolved; that eventually happened in 1986.

Costs to maintain and mail *New Wine* were growing beyond a sustainable level, and the relational association that had long empowered it was no longer existing in the same way that it had. And so, at the end of 1986, *New Wine* ceased publication. The related

teachers agreed to launch their own individual ministries closer to their own homes.

ONE-TO-ONE

However, there were still *New Wine*-related costs to pay and subscriptions to fulfill. A new kind of magazine was needed to fill the void. Prayers and plans began for this new publication. By early 1987, Integrity Communications became Charles Simpson Ministries. The growing music division was sold



to Michael Coleman and partners, and it was named Integrity Music. Charles Simpson Ministries (CSM) launched *Christian Conquest* Magazine, which provided Bible teaching and ministry news. The magazine went on to win awards for publishing excellence and gained new audiences around the world, before being re-named *One-to-One* to better reflect our mission.

In 1987, Charles Simpson also began personally writing a monthly *Pastoral Letter* to communicate what the Lord was showing to him and to encourage his friends in ministry. This letter has become our most effective and sought-after resource, and, like *New Wine* and *One-to-One*, the archives are available online via csmpublishing.org.

One of the most notable characteristics of my dad is his generosity. In addition to him giving personally out of his own pocket to bless and sustain countless numbers



of folks in need, he opened up our home for folks to live and stay with us. He has made giving a hallmark of CSM as well.

Upon the sale of CSM's worship music division, he and our CSM Board made a decision to give the vast majority of the proceeds to support Covenant Church of Mobile in its mission. Over the next seven years, CSM gave \$750,000 as a gift to Covenant Church. In addition, since 1975, CSM has given more than \$950,000 to support our partner Spanish-language publication, *Conquista Cristiana*, under the directorship of Pastor Hugo Zelaya, and hundreds of thousands more to support orphans, widows, and those in prison around the world.

For many years, CSM was the home of International Outreach Ministries, founded by Paul Petrie and subsequently led by Gary Henley. IOM continues its ministry today under the leadership of Michael McCarty, serving more than 100 missionaries globally.

The late 1980s and early 1990s saw Charles Simpson and our team developing a comprehensive, systematic Bible study curriculum, *The Covenant & the Kingdom*, which provided detailed history of God's dealings with mankind and His ongoing Sovereign purpose for the future. This resource has been published in Russian, Mandarin Chinese, Telegu (India), and Slovak, and portions have been translated into Spanish as well. It is used in

Latin America and in Africa, and has been a true landmark in Bible teaching and missions.

During those years, Dad also had a national daily radio evangelistic broadcast, "*Challenge with Charles Simpson*", which was heard in 22 metropolitan areas in the United States.

In the late 1990s, he received an honorary doctorate in pastoral ministry from the American Center for Theological Studies (ACTS). He entered the new millennium with a fresh and pronounced emphasis on personal one-to-one evangelism, and wrote three short booklets on how to start and lead one-to-one groups, how to lead someone to Jesus, and how to grow in our walk with Jesus once we've received Him as Lord. This is an emphasis he maintains and practices to this day.

JOY AND SORROW

In 2000, doctors discovered significant blockage



in some of his arteries, and he underwent quadruple bypass surgery. Typical of Dad, he reached out to his doctor, befriended him, shared the Gospel with him, and turned the entire experience into a series of deeply moving and effective sermons.

I still get excited about taking what God is saying to my Dad and facilitating in getting that word out all over the world in innovative new ways through CSM.

And, as the call of God became more clear upon the life of my sister, Charlyn, Dad and Mom fully supported her as she received her language and culture education in Costa Rica, where she then

launched a ministry to widows and orphans. Today, she and her husband, Enrique, lead the Hidden Treasures Costa Rica Children's Home ministry near San Jose, and have served literally hundreds of children with food, shelter, medical care, clothing, and educational supplies and tutoring.

Likewise, we've seen God's call on my brother, Jonathan, who not only served CSM creatively and administratively, but now works with a global firm that is providing high quality, cost-effective construction material to help some of the world's neediest citizens find affordable housing.

In 2005, we got the shocking news that our mother was battling Stage IV ovarian cancer. Dad and Mom always had a strong and loving marriage, but over the next three years, we saw a depth of love and commitment beyond anything we could have imagined. Dad left no stone unturned in Mom's care and treatment, left no prayer unprayed, left no tear unshed, left no loving word unspoken. Jon, Charlyn, and I, along with our spouses and our children, witnessed perhaps Dad's finest hour, though it was surely the most heartbreaking as well.

When Mom went home to be with the Lord in early 2008, Dad took a few months off from the rigors of regular travel ministry to once again seek God about the direction of his life. In the past seven years, he has given himself personally to ensure that the torch of truth is being passed to the next generations of Christian leaders, including producing a prophetic, historical video series entitled, *Words That Changed Our Lives*. He continues to travel extensively, and also to welcome leaders into our home. He continues to personally reach out to

encourage and heal the broken, and to personally ask people, "Do you know Jesus? Have you considered giving your life to Him? Have you prayed about it?"

PRAYER WARRIOR

In 2013, his book *Straight Answers to 21 Honest Questions About Prayer* was published by Chosen Books and became his best-selling work ever. It was the honest reflections of a man who can still be heard in his bedroom at night, calling out to the Lord on behalf of his friends and family; praying for the lost and the weary; interceding for our nation, for Israel, and for the world. He has written numerous other books including *A New Way to Live, Your Home or His, Struck by a Loaf of Barley Bread, The Challenge to Care, Courageous Living, Take Your Hat off Son*, and *Ants, Vines, and Churches*. He is the author of scores of magazine articles, and has preached thousands of times in traveling millions of miles.

I've watched Dad's service and devotion to his own parents, to his in-laws, and to all of our extended family. In 2009, Dad moved, along with our family, from the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay into a home together in west Mobile. I've learned as much from Dad in the past six years as perhaps in all of my previous life. It's a priceless honor. In addition to serving Jonathan, and his wife, Sarah, Charlyn and her husband, Enrique, and me and my wife, Susanne, as our father, Dad is the devoted grandpa to nine grandchildren and many others who love him as "Abuelo".

Folks that love him call him "Brother Charles" because he has truly been a covenant brother and friend to countless people worldwide.

Dad has led many to faith in Christ, prayed for thousands of people personally, counseled, held the hands of the sick and the hurting, encouraged the poor, the widowed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, and the rejected. He has turned the other cheek and walked the extra mile. He has helped restore people that no one else would touch.

Dad is a great example of "speaking the truth in love," regardless of the cost. He has always been willing to be a pioneer and take risks for the sake of the Gospel. He is a prayer warrior and a soul winner. He worships God with His whole life, in laughter and in tears. I am thankful for his love and guidance, and most of all, for pointing the way to Jesus for our family and for countless multitudes.

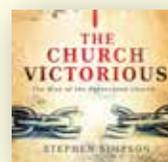
As his own dad would say, "The best is yet to come!" 121

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may say we're willing to die for our faith, but are we willing to live for it? We may say we will go out into the world to tell others about Jesus, but will we go across the street to our neighbor's house?

These questions challenge me, as they should. May we be motivated to seek God more passionately and to live for Him more fully so that the world will say, "Glory to God" and that He will say, "Well done!" 121

STEPHEN SIMPSON is the Editor of *One-to-One Magazine* and the President of CSM. For information on speaking availability, please call (251) 633-7900 or e-mail onetreestev@bellsouth.net. You can also follow him on Twitter @BamaStephen.



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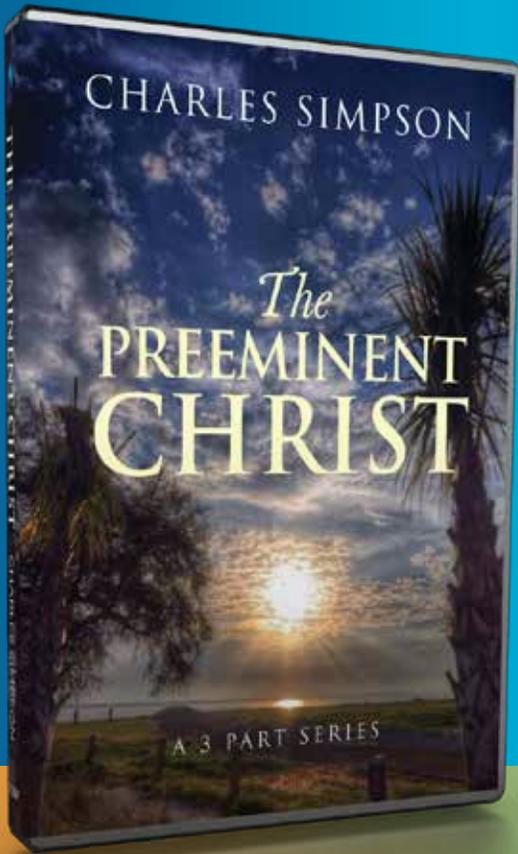
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